

March 19, 1991

SPEAKER BAACK PRESIDING

SPEAKER BAACK: Good morning and welcome to the George W. Norris Legislative Chamber. With us this morning for the prayer is Harland Johnson.

HARLAND JOHNSON: (Prayer offered.)

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Harland. In recognition of National Women's History Month, we are having some of our legislators talk about a significant woman in their lives. And this morning Senator LaVon Crosby is going to talk about a significant woman in her life. Senator Crosby.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members. When you look for a role model, especially women, I think all of us turn to our mothers. And my mother is a role model to me. She was a wonderful woman with a sense of humor, who was dedicated to her family and her husband, urged all of us always to do the best we could. There isn't anything you can't do, if you want to work hard enough, she told us. I had many aunts who were good role models, teachers, women teachers who are tremendous role models for me. But, if you're looking for a woman in public life as a role model, I give you Eleanor Roosevelt. Now you might think here's a rock-ribbed Republican whose presenting a Democrat to you as a role model for all of us women. But I say to you that Eleanor Roosevelt was a woman for all parties. She was Mrs. President Roosevelt. In the good old days you were Mrs. Judge Smith, or Mrs. Doctor Jones, or whatever, that was the way people referred to women whose husbands were...had some prominence in the community. Well, so Mrs. Roosevelt was Mrs. President Roosevelt. She wasn't a particularly beautiful woman, but she had an inner quality and strength that gave her a beauty all her own. And she had the ability to accept the role as Mrs. President Roosevelt. She embraced it and seized the opportunity to use that role. She had that shining attribute of being able to live with what she...the gifts that she received, and work in the world and stand up for what she believed in. One perfect example is her rising to the cause immediately when the DAR told Marion Anderson she couldn't sing at Constitution Hall in Washington, D.C. Eleanor Roosevelt brought her full wrath on that group and saw to it that kind of thing never happened again. She wasn't afraid to stand up for what she believed in. She was ridiculed, laughed at, didn't make her any...didn't hurt her a bit. She went right on....She came to